PARISH EVANGELIST AND VICAR

Tin Mining at Emmaville

The wattle is blooming at the time of writing, enhancing the mine-scarred hills of Emmaville, a town once famous for its tin resources. Some tin mining and fossicking for gem stones is still carried out, while grazing and growing a crop or two is the livelihood of the many property owners within the Parish.

God only knows what the future of small communities like Emmaville, Torrington and Deepwater will be.

When I think of the future I remember also the past and how as a youth I began work in a suburban grocery store. After a while I served five years apprenticeship and two years as a tradesman painter and decorator. At this point of my life I sought wealth and security, venturing forth in a contracting business of my own for another three years.

During these years I came to know that God had other plans for my life. After heeding His call I completed the two year residential course with Church Army and served as an Evangelist and Parish Assistant in the New Housing Area of Mount Druitt for four years (a good proving ground !).

I have almost completed 18 months as Parish Evangelist in charge of Emmaville Parish, with the duty to fulfil all pastoral functions as required.

WHAT IS MY MINISTRY ?

As an evangelist in the Church Army, I have found that my gifts of ministry tend toward youth work, counselling, teaching and general handy man.

Since coming here, we have developed Junior and Senior Young People's Fellowships, which meet regularly in the Vicarage shed, which they helped extend in order to make a good-sized club house. At this stage we are able to hand leadership of one group over to very capable people within the Parish.

While there is some growth in congregations, the Wednesday evening Bible discussion has proved to be a blessing to all of us who meet.

A number of ladies now assist me in teaching scripture in the public schools and are gaining more confidence and enjoying their new ministry.

I don't visit the property owners on horseback as it was done many years ago, although I do cover many rough miles in our small van.

Parish finances have been low for some time. The previous Vicar worked part-time for two and a half years, which meant a limited ministry. However God has been extremely good and has provided for our needs.

Now as I look to the past I can see how God prepared me through my experiences and training for my present ministry. When I think of the future I know that He is equipping me now for those tasks ahead and that He is going before and with me each step of the way.

Psalm 125, verses 1 and 2 : **"Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which can never be moved.**

As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from now on and forever."

Captain Les Fernance.

A Parish Mission

As one of his many tasks, the Federal Secretary, Captain Gwilt, conducts parish missions.

Earlier in the year, he spent a very happy ten days in the Parish of St. Mark's, South Hurstville, in Sydney, working with the Rector, the Rev. Owen Thomas, and parish sister, Diane Jeffrey. This particular mission was directed towards people already within the Church there, and aimed at re-commitment and increased growth in the Christion life.

The programme included a family tea, a film night, some week-night services, a men's tea, home meetings and a session at the local high school when the Missioner and several others led small-group discussions following a film.

A popular feature of the week was a book-stall, providing a wide selection of Christian reading for children, young people and adults.

The activities were well-attended, and the re-dedication of their lives to Christ by a considerable number of people was evident throughout the Mission.

Evangelism is our Ministry (Continued)

You would like my impressions of college life in the Church Army ? Well I'll tell you ! Ha ! Ha ! Ha !

Sorry if I've given you a bad impression but I must tell you that I like to abbreviate my words. "Ha" stands for Hallelujah.

The first Hallelujah is for the interesting and educational studies that we undertake here at the college. The subjects that we study and the lecturers who tutor us are most helpful and informative. The work is very practical for the foundation of my future ministry as an evangelist.

The second Hallelujah is for the practical training that we acquire. Each weekend students are sent to parishes to gain experience in visiting, speaking at services, teaching Sunday School, leading youth groups and in general pastoral work. Throughout the week we teach Scripture at schools and sometimes visit institutions, e.g. The Mission to Seamen, Sydney City Mission and other places where we may gain more practical knowledge for future work.

Finally, Hallelujah for the opportunity of sharing in gardening, house-work, discussions, projects and, of course, daily prayer and worship.

We do everything that any other normal Christian family does in the home. The atmosphere is generally cheerful and light-hearted. I know that this is the place to which God has called me in His service.

Lyn Bullard.

I am thankful to God for a minister who challenged people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the contact I had with a Church Army Sister. A few years later I felt God's call to serve Him in some sort of full time ministry. This was made known to a friend with whom I shared in prayer and fellowship concerning the Christian life. One day this friend said, "you are going to join the Church Army." I took that remark as a joke, until I attended a festival at Fairymeadow which had a theme on faith and the challenge for men to serve Jesus Christ. This again stimulated the sense of God calling and I asked for advice concerning full time work. It was suggested that I enquire about training within the Church Army. This was done after much seeking of the Lord's will in my life before applying to the Candidates' Secretary.

Before sending in my application, I was able to speak with one of the students about training and college life, and I participated in a mission held by the Training College at Cootamundra. I believe all this was the hand of God guiding my life to train and serve within the Church Army.

Trevor Brooks.

Lyn Bullard, Trevor Brooks & Chris Thiele

Drugs, gambling, murder, suicide, are only a few of society's problems today. Why is it that people sell their lives to pills and alcohol that destroy them ? The message I want to tell people about is not one of gloom or despair, but a message of abundant life for everyone.

As a Christian, I felt God calling me into the work of evangelism — to tell others who wouldn't normally hear about Jesus, to tell them that they no longer need to escape from reality in pills.

Just as Jesus called His disciples, trained them, and sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God, the people in the Church Army today have the same calling, to go and tell everyone about this Good News.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

Give thanks :
- ✶ for the generous response to the Birthday Appeal.
- ✶ for an increased number of supporters for our work.

Please pray :
- ✶ for a Mission to be conducted in the Parish of Stratford, Vic., by Captain Gwilt, from the 2nd to 9th November.
- ✶ for several young people who have enquired about coming into training next year, that they may be clearly shown God's will for their lives. Please pray for—Jim, Bruce, Bettina, Mark, Glenda, Lyn, Joan, Stephen, Kevin.
- ✶ for our need of many more young people to offer themselves for training.
- ✶ for the Church Army Staff Conference, to be held in January, 1976. Pray for the Primate and others who will take part, for officers, wives, and their families.

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH ARMY : Bless, O Lord, we beseech you, the work of the Church Army to the conversion of sinners and the strengthening of the faithful. Endue its workers with the power of your Holy Spirit that they may witness faithfully, courageously and consistently to the principles of your Gospel, and the faith of your Church, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ITS OFFICERS : Grant, O God, to the Officers of the Church Army

the Faith which sees the Cross and knows that all men may be redeemed;

the Hope which sees the empty tomb and knows that good must triumph over evil;

the Love which sees Jesus and knows that in Him alone the hearts of men can be fully satisfied;

For His Name's sake. Amen.

A PRAYER IN THE TIME OF DECISION : O God, you know that I must make decisions which are going to affect my life. Help me to choose the right way. Grant me your guidance, and with it grant me the humble obedience to accept it. Help me not to choose what I want to do, but what you wish me to do. Grant that I may not be swayed by fear or by hope of gain, by selfish love of ease or comfort or by personal ambition, by the desire to escape or the longing for prestige. Help me today in humble obedience to say to you : 'Lord, what will you have me to do ?' and then to await your guidance, and to accept your leading. Hear my prayer, and send me an answer so clear that I cannot mistake it. This I ask for your love's sake. Amen.

MORE SUPPORT

As indicated in the Prayer Points, we are extremely thankful for the increasing numbers of people who subscribe to our work, in one form or another.

You may be interested in the following new supporters, who have commenced during the last three months :—

Associates	*3*
Friends	*4*
General Donors	*18*
Box Holders	
(incl. those with Can Wrappers)	*99*

While greatly encouraged by this increase we are seeking further support and, also, a different kind of help from some of our subscribers.

Could you be a Box Secretary ? We need many more to cope with the number of people who subscribe by keeping a Box or Can.

This would mean collecting from people in your area, every 6 months, and forwarding a cheque/postal note for the total to the Federal Office.

If you can help please write to Captain Gwilt (address on page 2), and a list of names and addresses will be sent to you.

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THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH ARMY :

The Church Army was founded in England in 1882 by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these societies are also at work in Germany, South America, South Africa, Belize, Cyprus, West Pakistan and Italy.

Editorial . . .

UNEMPLOYMENT ?

Although Australia and other countries have been beset by vast unemployment, this does not seem to be the case in the Christian Church.

At one stage last year, the Church Army had been approached by about 40 people (bishops, clergy and others) about the possibility of Church Army officers being appointed to positions. Unfortunately the answer had to be "No" in most cases, because there were simply not enough officers.

Because requests are still coming in, and the opportunities could be great, and exciting, we believe that God is calling more people to the work of evangelism. We believe that all Christian young people should be challenged about the possibility of a vocation in some form of full-time service.

The answering of God's call could mean sacrifice. It could mean the giving up of a "successful" career. However, if you read the articles by our first year students, on the following pages, you'll find no regrets, only a keenness to serve God in whatever situation they find themselves.

Therefore, I urge you to join us in praying that God will raise up many more young people to join in the task of evangelism. **"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."**—Luke 10:2.

Fight the Good Fight

A BOOK LOOK

PRAISE WORKS ! — Merlin Carothers
The author of "Prison to Praise" shares how many are being transformed by the joy and freedom which come from the experience of praise as the only legitimate response to a God who works all things together for good with those who love Him. **$1.60.**

PRAYER WITHOUT PRETENDING — Anne J. Townsend
'It took the death of a friend,' says the author, 'to wake me up to the importance of praying for other people.' She shares frankly with readers how she (though a missionary) struggled with and resolved her doubts and questionings about intercessory prayer. **$1.30.**

HEALING DEVOTIONS — Anne S. White
The author of "Healing Adventure" now offers a comprehensive collection of daily meditations and prayers based on scripture and hymns. **$3.25.**

LOST SHEPHERD — Agnes Sanford
Many people's lives have been changed radically by this book which has a power stronger than medicine, surgery or psychiatry surging through its pages. **$1.40.**

GOD CAN DO IT AGAIN — Kathryn Kuhlman
Nineteen people, including three doctors, who have witnessed — and experienced — the remarkable ability of the woman they call "The Love Healer," tell their unique personal stories in this unusual book. **$1.50.**

JESUS CHRIST FOR TODAY — William Barclay
What is the true message of our Lord ? What methods did Jesus use to make his teachings effective ? What bearing does evangelism have on the social controversies that trouble our time ? Dr. Barclay expounds the truly Christian evangelist's answer to these crucial queries. **$1.00.**

THANKFULLY — Helen Steiner Rice
A new collection of inspirational verse including "The Christmas Guest." **$3.00.**

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